



# THE RICOCHET

28900 E. Argo Rd. Grain Valley, MO 64029 ( 816)-229-4448

<http://www.conservation.state.mo.us/areas/ranges/lakecity>



## Range News

The range is bracing itself for the next three months, as the 2003-2004 Hunting Season rolls around. With the opening of Dove season, and Teal season right behind dove season, the range is already experiencing wing shooters brushing up on their skills at the trap ranges. The end of September will bring long lines for the rifle range. To prevent standing in those long lines, we are now open Wednesday – Sunday. This will afford the public an extra day during the week to sight in the rifles or work on their wing shooting.

The staff is always getting calls from the public asking, “What day is best to come out and sight-in my rifle?” the question is not easily answered. Wednesday through Friday is your best bet to get right in. The range has seen a slight increase in the number of shooter from this time last year.

Several things have happened this summer. The biggest one was the heat wave and the other, more recent happening has been the passing of the Concealed Carry Weapons Law. This summer’s heat wave kept those people who normally shoot during the extended summer hours at the indoor range. Now with the weather cooling off, the normal summer shooters are filtering in during the week to beat the weekend group.

The Concealed Carry Weapons Law has restored an interest for Missourians

to come out to the ranges and shoot. Many of these people are hunters, as well as non-hunters. They want to hone their skills with their firearms prior to taking the concealment class. Several of these shooter are new to the shooting sport, and are not nearly as familiar with their firearms or rules and regulations here at the range. To insure everyone’s safety at the range, our staff has to take some extra time to explain the range procedures to these new shooters

The staff here at the range wants every trip to the range to be an enjoyable one. To make that happen, we ask that you be safety minded when standing in line. If your firearms are not in a case, make sure it is not loaded, action is open and muzzle is up when going from your vehicle to the range and the same when leaving the range. If there is a line forming, place your firearm in the gun racks provided and step back in line. By following these simple rules we can help you have a productive and fun day at the range.

## Tips to Better Dove Shooting

Have you ever wanted to be a better than average Dove Hunter? The average hunter shoots an astounding eight shots for every dove that he takes! There are a few things that you can do to prepare for a better than average hunting trip. The first and

most important thing to do prior to any hunting season is practice. It doesn't matter if your hunting deer, turkey, dove, etc., you owe it to yourself and the game you hunt to be proficient with the weapon you choose. Lake City Range provides a great opportunity for individuals interested in practicing for the upcoming bird seasons. An individual or group can come out to the range and shoot at our trap houses for a reasonable rate. The cost is \$2.00 per hour per person. This cost does not include your clay pigeons, but they can be picked up at any sporting goods store and are inexpensive. You must also remember to bring your own eye and hearing protection when coming out to the range.

If practiced and followed through correctly, these three tips from Field and Stream magazine will significantly increase the number of doves, ducks, or pheasants you take while you are in the field. The first tip is to simply watch where your feet are located when you shoot. A line drawn from your rear heel to your front foot should point to the place where you expect to kill the bird. You should think about this posture before your feet get caught in brush or other obstructions. The second and probably the most important tip is to get into the routine of swinging through your shots. These birds are most likely flying at pretty good speeds, so it is important to keep swinging your gun when you shoot. A common mistake that most hunters make is stopping their swing when they pull the trigger. If you stop swinging your gun during the shot you will shoot behind the bird. The third tip given to us by Field and Stream is to keep your head down. Watch for incoming birds with your peripheral vision, so your head will already be lowered when it is time to take a shot at your bird.

The next time you are out in the field and the doves or ducks are flying

all around you, keep some of these tips in mind and you might realize that you have become a little more successful at hunting your bird of choice. We as a staff here at Lake City Range, hope to see you and your family out at the range in the future. Good shooting!

## **Hunting Old Dogs**

This title probably should say, "Hunting Older Dogs and Older Hunters." As we move into another bird season many will be surprised at the number of seasons we have hunted with our four legged hunting companions if we stop to count. Retirement age for dogs often comes a lot sooner than we want to realize.

Those years of day long romps through CRP fields and hedge rows are hampered by arthritis, bone spurs, hip problems and failing eye sight.

To get a couple more good years out of your aging friend there are some things to consider. Outside house dogs may need to be kept indoors on cold nights and after a hard hunt; be careful of the hunting pace, if you are hunting with young dogs and an older dog. Save the older dog for the easier fields or hunt short time periods. Update your first aid kit and remember, we will be in his situation sooner than we want to be. Put your self in his place.

## **Flying with Firearms**

At the range, we encounter all types of questions from shooters concerning travel on an airplane with a firearm, especially after September 11, 2001. With the hunting season coming, we have had hunters ask about how to ship firearms on airlines while traveling with weapons. Each airline has their own rules for traveling with firearms, and they are not much different than they were prior to "9/11"

The first thing you need is a good quality hard lockable gun case. A keyed and combination lock is desirable. Of course, the firearm will go on as checked luggage. Be sure your firearm has been well cleaned, because powder residue might set off one of the scanners. If a scanner is alerted, you will be required to open the case.

You can purchase additional insurance through the airlines for the maximum allowed on your firearms. A good information source for up-to-date info is the NRA. Their website is [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org).

## **Safety Corner**

Shooters, recently an article in the NRA Shooting Education discussed a new way to carry your shotgun on the trap/skeet range. This new technique calls for the shooter to carry their guns, "actions open-or broken open," at the hinge in the case of a double-barrel or over-under, on the shoulder of the shooter. The muzzle is held to the front so that the shotgunner can ensure that the gun is always pointed in a safe direction."

Although this carry is approved at other ranges for sporting clays it is not approved for use at the Lake City Range and Training Center. We still maintain the muzzle be pointed up in the air while being transported to and from the range. Keep in mind it is the shooters responsibility to check the rules posted at each individual range.

## **Range Hours**

**Sept. 15, 2003 to May 1, 2004**  
Noon-4:30pm Wednesday-Sunday

## **Starting October 15 through November 14, 2003**

Range hours will be  
**10:00A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

Monday-Tuesday we are still available for group use by prior arrangements on a first come first serve basis. There is currently about a three week advance notice needed to get on the schedule. Shooting opportunities are limited in this area and we fill up quickly. Call the Range at (816)229-4448 to arrange for your group times.

## **Range Staff**

Supervisor	David Wyatt
Range Officer	Steven Elliott
Range Assistant	Chantz Brown
Weekend Hourly	Gary Combs

## **Calendar of Events**

<b>September 24</b>	Archery Bow Maintenance Class Lake City Range
<b>September 27</b>	National Hunting and Fishing Day, held at James A. Reed MWA
<b>October 11</b>	Hunter Education Class Lake City Range
<b>October 15</b>	Archery Deer Seminar/ Deer Sign-in Hours Lake City Range
<b>October 22</b>	Firearm Deer Seminar Lake City Range
<b>November 8</b>	Hunter Education Class Lake City Range
<b>November 27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day Range Closed!</b>